

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): . An apparatus for forming an image by use of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals and joined together on a photoconductive surface to form the image, comprising:

a photoconductive drum having ~~the~~ a photoconductive surface and a reference mark;
an ~~a~~ pattern supplying unit ~~which supplies~~ configured to supply image data in synchronization with detection of the reference mark associated with rotation of the photoconductive drum; and
drawing systems ~~which create~~ configured to create moiré stripes on the photoconductive surface by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the respective light beams according to the image data, and draw a reference position mark alongside the moiré stripes, on the photoconductive surface according to the image data.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a computing unit which computes an amount of correction of position of the light beams on the photoconductive surface in a main scan direction in response to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a circuit which adjusts position of the light beams on the photoconductive surface in a main scan direction according to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the

reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a sensor which detects the position of the moiré stripes.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said computing unit computes the amount of correction of position of the light beams by interpolating data that are obtained for at least three positions along a circumference of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said comparison is made either on the photoconductive surface or on a sheet of paper on which a toner image of the moiré stripes and the reference position mark is created.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said drawing systems include:

a first drawing system which uses a first one of the light beams to draw a first set of lines slanted at a predetermined angle; and

a second drawing system which uses a second one of the light beams to draw a second set of lines slanted at an angle opposite to the predetermined angle, said first set of lines and said second set of lines having an identical line pitch and an identical line width.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for adjusting ~~position~~ positions of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals and joined together on a photoconductive surface to form an image, comprising:

a photoconductive drum having the photoconductive surface and a reference mark;

~~an~~ a pattern supplying unit ~~which supplies~~ configured to supply image data in synchronization with a detection of ~~the~~ a reference mark associated with a rotation of the photoconductive drum;

drawing systems ~~which create~~ configured to create moiré stripes on the photoconductive surface by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the respective light beams according to the image data, and draw a reference position mark alongside the moiré stripes, on the photoconductive surface according to the image data; and

a circuit ~~which adjusts position~~ configured to adjust positions of the light beams on the photoconductive surface in a main scan direction according to a comparison between a position of the moiré stripes and a position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for forming an image by use of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals and joined together on a photoconductive drum to form the image, comprising:

means for forming a reference position mark on the photoconductive drum; and

means for forming moiré stripes alongside the reference position mark on the photoconductive drum by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the respective light beams.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising computing means for computing an amount of correction of position of the light beams on the photoconductive drum in a main scan direction in response to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising means for adjusting position of the light beams on the photoconductive drum in a main scan direction according to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for detecting the position of the moiré stripes.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said computing means computes the amount of correction of position of the light beams by interpolating data that are obtained for at least three positions along a circumference of the photoconductive drum.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said comparison is made either on the photoconductive surface or on a sheet of paper on which a toner image of the moiré stripes and the reference position mark is created.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said means for forming moiré stripes include:

a first drawing system which uses a first one of the light beams to draw a first set of lines slanted at a predetermined angle; and

a second drawing system which uses a second one of the light beams to draw a second set of lines slanted at an angle opposite to the predetermined angle, said first set of lines and said second set of lines having an identical line pitch and an identical line width.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for adjusting ~~position~~positions of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals and joined together on a photoconductive drum to form an image, comprising:

means for forming a reference position mark on the photoconductive drum;

means for forming moiré stripes alongside the reference position mark on the photoconductive drum by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the respective light beams; and

means for adjusting ~~position~~the positions of the light beams on the photoconductive drum in a main scan direction according to a comparison between a position of the moiré stripes and a position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.